



## **MILITARY LEADERS, SOLDIERS & THEIR FAMILIES ON THE 3-MONTH TOUR EXTENSION FOR TROOPS SERVING IN IRAQ**

### **MILITARY LEADERS & EXPERTS**

#### **Lt. Gen. Theodore G. Stroup, Jr. (retired)**

“Clearly, it’s going to have an unpredictable impact on the retention of mid-and senior-grade noncommissioned officers. It already is having an impact on company-grade officers, the captains.”

[\[Washington Post, 4/12/07\]](#)

#### **Maj. General William Nash (retired)**

“It has to have an impact on retention...I don’t know how much, whether it’s 2 percent or 20 percent, but it will have an impact.” [\[New York Times, 4/12/07\]](#)

#### **U.S. Air Force Col. Dean Smittle (retired)**

“You may have a slacking off in discipline... You may have fewer who volunteer to go on combat patrol outside the wire of Green Zone. Their health could suffer through depression and stress... Number one is the divorce rate. Women are leaving their husbands. Also, the suicide rate is up. The desertion rate is up.”

[\[WCPO – TV, Channel 9 \(Ohio\), 4/12/07\]](#)

#### **Army Col. Jeff McCausland (retired)**

“It’s the same size force now being asked to do more and more things, stay a longer time in Iraq and at greater force levels.” [\[CBS-3 \(Philadelphia\), 4/11/07\]](#)

#### **Edwin Dorn**

*Former undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness*

“They have set in motion a process that could easily break the Army over the next couple of years...It is setting the Army on a descending spiral. You make the job harder, you make the tours longer, you put additional stress on families – all of which makes it harder to recruit new people.” [\[Washington Post, 4/12/07\]](#)

### **MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES**

#### **Capt. Brice Cooper, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division in Iraq**

“We’re just laughing...It’s so unbelievable, it’s humorous.” [\[New York Times, 4/12/07\]](#)

#### **Army Lt. Col. Trèse Bannister, husband Col. Jeff Bannister serving in Iraq**

“It’s a huge disappointment.” [\[The Gazette \(Colorado\), 4/13/07\]](#)

#### **Staff Sgt. Edgardo Delgado, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, serving 3<sup>rd</sup> tour in Iraq**

“You’re kidding, you’re kidding,” he said again and again upon learning the news. [\[Chicago Tribune, 4/12/07\]](#)

**Stephany Delgado, wife of Staff Sgt. Edgardo Delgado**

“It’s unfair to the family, to the kids.” [[Chicago Tribune, 4/12/07](#)]

**Carolyn Crissman, husband Lt. Col. Doug Crissman in Iraq**

“Fifteen months is a long time...especially if you leave an infant and come back to a toddler.” [[Washington Post, 4/12/07](#)]

**Tracy Gee, husband Staff Sgt. Wendell Gee serving 3<sup>rd</sup> tour in Iraq**

“They were extended again and again and again, so finally no one believed them...it’s a lot easier to get happy than be upset...I’m just ready for it to be over.” [[Washington Post, 4/12/07](#)]

**Sarah Turskey, husband Nicholas Turskey serving in Iraq**

“It’s just going to be a lot of stress on a lot of people...My children are 3 and 2, and they cry for him a lot...It shows, with every kid, even with my kids being as young as they are. They were on the computer today saying, ‘Daddy home now. Daddy home now.’” [[The Gazette \(Colorado\), 4/13/07](#)]

**Toni Johnson, husband Jeff Johnson serving in Iraq**

“That’s three extra months without my husband, three extra months of our kids missing their father...It will definitely be a hardship...It’s hardest on the younger ones because they don’t understand why Daddy is gone...I underestimated how hard it is to be a military wife.” [[Los Angeles Times, 4/12/07](#)]

**Maureen Couture, son Lt. Barry Couture in Iraq**

“We have to make a decision as country. If we are going to go forward in the war on terrorism, we have to get more people involved. You can’t have 2 percent of the population to take care of every one. It doesn’t work.” [[WCVB-TV, Boston Channel 5, 4/11/07](#)]

**Paul Rieckhoff, founder of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America**

“Put yourself in the boots of those troops...Fifteen months is a long time to be away from your spouse and children. This decision is undoubtedly going to have a negative impact on retention ... and the Army’s already strained recruiting.” [[Los Angeles Times, 4/12/07](#)]